

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 AEC-11 AF-10

ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NASA-04

NSAE-00 NSC-10 OIC-04 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 MMS-03

OMB-01 /215 W

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R 271000Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 248

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2612

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, IO, MOPS, XO, US

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP AND DIEGO GARCIA

REFS: (A) TOKYO 1650 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 036172; (C) STATE 036954

SUMMARY: EMBOFF INFORMALLY TOLD FONOFF THAT  
KITTY HAWK WOULD BE OPERATING IN INDIAN OCEAN  
BEGINNING MARCH. FONOFF OFFICER VOLUNTEERED  
FONOFF'S ASSESSMENT OF US-UK PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA.

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ASSESSMENT FOCUSES ON POLITICAL NATURE OF SOVIET

PRESENCE AND OUR PLANS AS PRIMARILY POLITICAL REACTION. HE NOTED POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR US-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFF INFORMALLY INFORMED FONOFF DEP HEAD SW ASIA DIV YOSHIDA THAT KITTY HAWK WOULD BE OPERATING IN INDIAN OCEAN FOR PERIOD BEGINNING IN MARCH. ONLY IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS QUERY AS TO WHETHER KITTY HAWK WAS FROM SEVENTH FLEET.

2. IN ENSUING CONVERSATION, YOSHIDA, WHO COORDINATED FONOFF INTER-BUREAU DISCUSSION OF US-UK PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA AND PREPARED FONOFF POSITION PAPER, VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING FONOFF ASSESSMENT. FONOFF CONCLUDED THAT SOVIET NAVAL FORCES PURPOSE IN INDIAN OCEAN WAS PRIMARILY POLITICAL, NOT MILITARY, CONSISTING MOSTLY OF SUPPORT AND NOT OFFENSIVE-TYPE VESSELS. PURPOSE IS TO SUPPORT SOVIET INTERESTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES, INDIA AND BANGLADESH. US DECISION TO BUILD UP DIEGO GARCIA WAS SEEN IN SIMILAR LIGHT, AS POLITICAL RESPONSE TO SOVIET PRESENCE. FACT THAT US-UK INFORMED LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OF PLANS WAS REGARDED AS EVIDENCE THAT POLITICAL IMPACT WAS DESIRED AND IN THIS US SUCCEEDED. YOSHIDA SAID FONOFF ACCEPTED RATIONALE THAT OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL MIGHT LEAD TO FUTURE SOVIET MILITARY BUILD UP IN INDIAN OCEAN. IN THAT EVENT DIEGO GARCIA WOULD PERMIT EXPANDED US MILITARY PRESENCE TO COUNTER SOVIET ACTIVITIES.

3. AS FOR IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN FONOFF PERCEIVED IN INDIAN OCEAN DEVELOPMENTS, YOSHIDA SAID THAT JAPAN'S INTEREST IN STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF USSR AND US IN INDIAN OCEAN WERE LARGELY ACADEMIC. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT GOJ WOULD NECESSARILY BE INTERESTED IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US BUILD UP IN INDIAN OCEAN, SEVENTH FLEET, AND JAPAN'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH US. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD SHIP HOME PORTED IN JAPAN BE DEPLOYED FROM JAPAN TO INDIAN OCEAN, GOJ WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPLICATIONS AND BE PREPARED FOR CRITICISM IN DIET.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE ARGUMENT THAT BOTH WE AND GOJ USE, THAT HOMEPORTING 7TH FLEET UNITS IN JAPAN DOES NOT AFFECT THEIR TECHNICAL STATUS AS BEING DEPLOYED QTE AT SEA UNQTE. WE WOULD AGREE WITH YOSHIDA THAT REPERCUSSIONS IN DIET WOULD BE LIKELY IF IT WERE DISCOVERED THAT VESSEL HOMEPORTED IN JAPAN WERE DEPLOYED TO INDIAN OCEAN. OUR

TECHNICAL DISTINCTIONS ARE LOST ON JAPAN ELECTORATE  
AND DIET, AND SUCH DEPLOYMENT PROBABLY WOULD  
RESULT IN QUESTION OF QTE FAR EAST CLAUSE UNQTE  
BEING PRECIPITATED IN DIET DEBATE.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

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